

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
Office européen des brevets



(11)

**EP 0 896 305 A3**

(12)

**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
19.01.2000 Bulletin 2000/03

(51) Int Cl.7: **G07F 17/32**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
10.02.1999 Bulletin 1999/06

(21) Application number: **98305355.4**

(22) Date of filing: **06.07.1998**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE**  
Designated Extension States:  
**AL LT LV MK RO SI**

(72) Inventors:  
• Shimizu, Toshiaki  
Artarmon, NSW 2064 (AU)  
• Aida, Eiji  
Totsuka-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken (JP)

(30) Priority: **08.08.1997 JP 21509297**

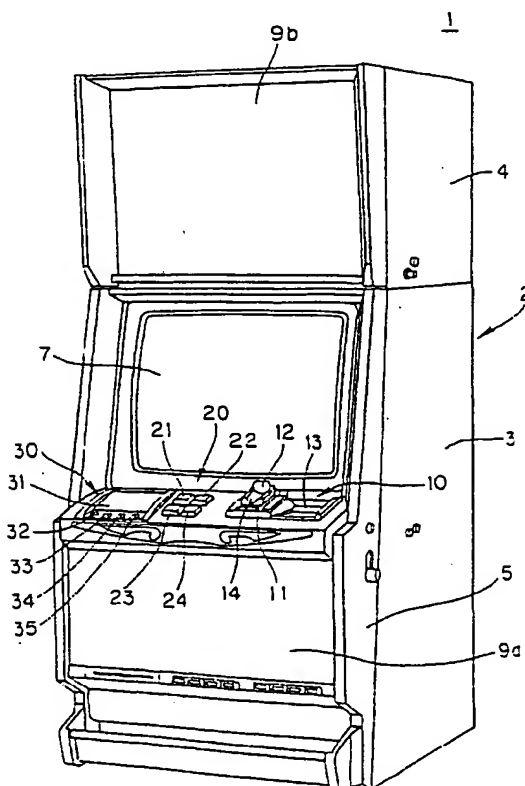
(74) Representative: **Brunner, Michael John  
GILL JENNINGS & EVERY  
Broadgate House  
7 Eldon Street  
London EC2M 7LH (GB)**

(71) Applicant: **Konami Co., Ltd.  
Kobe-shi, Hyogo-ken (JP)**

(54) **Slot machine**

(57) A slot machine comprises a housing (2) provided with an operation panel (8) on a front side thereof; a main display device (7) disposed above the operation panel; a sub-display device (31) disposed on the operation panel (8); a main input device capable of issuing information corresponding to an operation of a player thereto; and a game controller (50) for controlling a process of a game performed on a screen of the main display device (7) with referring to the information issued from the main input device. The main input device comprises a first input device (21, 22, 23, 24) provided on the operation panel (8) and the second input device (57) provided on the screen of the main display device (7) or a periphery thereof to thereby facilitate an observation of the sub-display device (31).

Fig. 1



**EP 0 896 305 A3**



European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 98 30 5355

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	EP 0 789 338 A (IGT (AUSTRALIA) PTY) 13. August 1997 (1997-08-13)	1-3, 6-9, 11	G07F17/32
Y	* column 2, line 47 - column 3, line 42; figures 1-4 *	4, 5	
A	---	10, 12, 15	
Y	WO 97 27921 A (PTT, LLC) 7 August 1997 (1997-08-07) * page 70, line 15 - page 72, line 18; figures 21-30 *	4, 5	
A	EP 0 253 584 A (BELL-FRUIT) 20 January 1988 (1988-01-20) * column 3, line 34 - column 4, line 10; figures *	1, 6-10, 12, 15	
A	EP 0 769 769 A (BALLY GAMING INTERNATIONAL) 23 April 1997 (1997-04-23) * column 4, line 3 - line 37 * * column 5, line 54 - column 6, line 4; figures *	1-6, 10-12, 15	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G07F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30 November 1999	Examiner Neville, D
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EP 0 FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 98 30 5355

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

30-11-1999

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 789338	A	13-08-1997	AU 1253097 A	14-08-1997
WO 9727921	A	07-08-1997	US 5580059 A	03-12-1996
			US 5655773 A	12-08-1997
			US 5755621 A	26-05-1998
			AU 2255197 A	22-08-1997
			AU 3007097 A	26-11-1997
			WO 9741933 A	13-11-1998
			US 5897436 A	27-04-1999
EP 253584	A	20-01-1988	DE 3783962 A	18-03-1993
			GB 2192478 A, B	13-01-1988
EP 769769	A	23-04-1997	AU 704691 B	29-04-1999
			AU 5057696 A	24-04-1997
			CA 2173050 A	22-04-1997
			NZ 286211 A	26-06-1998
			ZA 9603241 A	30-08-1996

(107421) 411A 10 2115 2115

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

**THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)**